



One Voice

Shady Spot for Summer...

The wind is blowing warmer, the temperatures are rising—it is almost summer in St. Lucie County, and change is in the air. Change in the political world—in who will be leading us and how our tax dollars will be spent; change in how our community looks, and change in our residents. It is with excitement and trepidation that I approach this new season.

I am pleased to see the positive changes that are occurring in our community—specifically in District One. In April, we unveiled the new and improved Ilous Ellis Park Basketball courts. The new open air roofed facility will provide a shady spot for our young ones and young at heart to play. The county has also enacted a Graffiti Ordinance, and our Code Enforcement Department recently created a graffiti hotline—so residents can call and report vandalism. These are two examples of how your tax dollars are used to create positive change in our neighborhoods.

More change is on the horizon with declining property values and recent changes to the state's Constitution. As a result, your commissioners must reduce the county's tax revenues by \$51 million between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2010. While the task is daunting, your BOCC has worked diligently to guard your funds for this "rainy day". Unfortunately, some county services you've come to rely upon will be changed, curtailed, and in some instances eliminated. But prudent fiscal management of your tax dollars means that we will continue to eliminate the budget gap while doing our best to provide you with the public services you expect and demand. For more information, please visit our website to read the Press Release, *County's Budget Financially Sound, According to Audit at:* <http://stlucieco.gov/media/4340.htm>.



Commissioner Joe Smith addresses the crowd at the grand re-opening of the Ilous Ellis basketball courts at Open Space Park in April.



Spotlight on: Master Gardeners

There is good news for people (like Commissioner Smith's Aide, Carin) who were not blessed with a "green thumb". Never fear, wilting plants—the Master Gardeners are here! The University of Florida Cooperative Extension in St. Lucie County has a program which trains aspiring backyard botanists to become Master Gardeners. Participants are given the opportunity to improve their horticultural knowledge and skills, and then share their experience with the public through organized volunteer activities. To become a certified Master Gardener, participants must complete an initial training of 75 hours, and then donate 75 hours of volunteer service by answering plant, insect and disease questions, giving talks and presentations, and promoting gardening experiences with children.



Commissioner Smith joins our area's newest group of Master Gardeners following their graduation ceremony in

There are currently 80 active Master Gardeners who've provided a combined 13,000 hours of local volunteer time. To find out more about the program, call 462-1660 or visit stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu

Honoring Coach Fenn



For years, he lead the county as District One Commissioner, and has spent a good deal of his life championing efforts to improve St. Lucie County. Havert "Coach" Fenn is an icon in our area—and recently received some much deserved accolades for his years of community service. In December, the current Board of County Commissioners honored Coach Fenn by naming the new Special Needs Shelter on Virginia Avenue after him. The 62,575 square foot building will soon be home to a large gym, several multipurpose rooms and office space. The total price tag for the Havert L. Fenn Center is a little more than \$14,500,000. The bulk of the funding came from two state grants, FEMA and insurance money obtained from the old Civic Center—which was destroyed in the 2004 Hurricanes. The center is expected to be completed in the fall.

Graffiti Hotline

St. Lucie County now has a number for you to call to report code issues such as graffiti and noise violations. Program this number into your cell phone and use it the next time you see graffiti!

(772) 370-2545

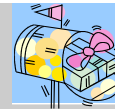
Celebrating Heritage



Commissioner Smith hugs Mrs. Donaldson—his beloved Kindergarten teacher. He spoke to her first grade students at Fairlawn Elementary for Black History Month in February.

February always proves to be a busy month for Commissioner Smith thanks to many speaking engagement requests for Black History Month. This year, he spoke at five schools—to audiences of elementary, middle and high school students. He also addressed adult audiences at The Black History Makers dinner, Step Up Florida and a panel discussion in the Lincoln Park area. Perhaps his favorite request to speak came from his Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Sue Donaldson—who invited him to speak at Fairlawn Elementary—his alma mater.

Books by Mail



So you want a good book to read, but you aren't able to get to the library—what is a reader to do? Books by Mail might be the answer. The program, based at the Lakewood Park Branch, is designed to help residents who are home-bound due to illness, injury or permanent disability. Interested readers apply for the service and indicate the types of books they're interested in, then a member of the library staff picks appropriate books and sends them to readers to keep for a month. For more information on Books by Mail, call (772) 462-6870.



Officially Open!

Local leaders helped cut the ribbon for the new Clerk of the Circuit Court building on Indian River Drive in historic downtown Fort Pierce in early April. From left: Port St. Lucie Councilwoman Michelle Berger, Port St. Lucie Mayor Patricia Christensen, County Commissioner Chris Craft, County Commissioner Charles Grande, Fort Pierce Mayor Bob Benton, County Commission Chair Joe Smith, County Commissioner Doug Coward, County Commission Vice Chair Paula Lewis and Clerk of the Circuit Court Ed Fry.



2 Days of Watering



Some relief is in sight for lawn owners who are growing weary of living with brown grass and wilting plants. As of April 18th, the South Florida Water Management District has modified its water restrictions, allowing residents to irrigate two days a week instead of one.

Here are the updated "watering windows":

*Odd street addresses may irrigate on **Wednesdays and Saturdays anytime *except*** between the hours of 10:00a.m.—4:00p.m.

*Even street addresses may irrigate on **Thursdays and Sundays anytime *except*** between the hours of 10:00a.m.—4:00p.m.

(Additional watering days and times are allocated for the establishment of new lawns and landscapes)

You can use your hose for up to 10 minutes a day to hand-water your landscaping. No restrictions apply to other outside water uses, such as for washing your car or boat, pressure cleaning paved surfaces, decorative fountains and pools.

For more information, call the **Water Conservation Hotline at 1-800-662-8876** or visit www.savewaterfl.com

Meeting Schedules

County Commission:

6p - 1st/3rd Tues of every month
9a - 2nd/4th Tues of every month
Administration Bldg.

3rd Floor
2300 Virginia Ave
(Comcast Cable Channel 21)

Ft. Pierce City Commission:

7p - 1st/3rd Mon of every month
City Hall
100 North US 1
(Comcast Cable Channel 27)

School Board:

6p - 2nd/4th Tues of every month
School Board Office
4204 Okeechobee Rd.

Lincoln Park Business Assoc.:

7p - 2nd Wed of every month
Willie B. Ellis Police Substation
1220 Avenue D

Important Numbers

Commissioner Joe Smith

(772) 462-1410
carins@stlucieco.gov

Ft. Pierce City Hall

(772) 460-2200

Port St. Lucie City Hall

(772) 871-5159

SLC School Board Office

(772) 429-3600

State Representative

Richard Macheck

(772) 595-1391

State Senate President

Ken Pruitt

(772) 344-1140

Governor Charlie Crist

(850) 488-7146

US Representative

Alcee Hastings

(202) 225-1313

US Senator

Bill Nelson

(202) 224-5274

US Senator

Mel Martinez

(202) 224-3041

The White House

(202) 456-1414

Questions or comments about our newsletter?

Do you have an issue you'd like for us to discuss in the next newsletter?

Maybe an event you would like announced to the community?

Call or email Carin:

462-1410, carins@stlucieco.gov